Funding of political expenses

336. SHRI CHARURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the recent revelation of hawala payments to certain important political leaders in the country which were intended mainly for election purposes, Government have any proposal to set up a system for funding the political expenses of recognised political parties legally; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The issue of limited State Funding of election expenses of candidates belonging to recognised political parties is under consideration of the Government.

Meeting of National Water Resources Council

337. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister OF WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the National Water Resources Council was held recently;

(b) if so, the subjects discussed at that meeting;

(c) whether any guidelines were evolved at the above meeting in resolving inter-State river water disputes particularly with reference to the Cauvery River water dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The 3rd Meeting of National Water Resources Council under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister was held on 06.02.96 in New Delhi to consider the following agenda items:—

(i) Progress in implementation of National Water Policy, including consideration and approval of:

a. Water Information Bill.

b. Policy Note on setting up River Basin Organisations.

c. National Policy for Resettlement and Rehabilitation of persons affected by reservoir projects.

d. Modification of Water Allocation priorities specified by National Water Policy.

e. Overall policy guidelines for Water management and pricing of Water for industrial purposes.

f. An approach to Organisational and procedural changes in Irrigation Sector.

g. Irrigation Management Policy.

h. National policy guidelines of Water Allocation of Inter-State rivers amongst States.

(ii) Controversies being faced by the Water Resources Sector and Government of India's stand

(iii) Improving the performance of existing projects

(iv) Ultimate needs of stable population of India and Development plans to meet with them during the next 20 years.

(c) and (d) The draft National Policy guidelines for sharing of inter-State river waters as finalised by the National Water Board were discussed in this Meeting. It was generally suggested that the draft Policy should be reviewed before further consideration and adoption.